

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-7, 9, and 12-22 to read as follows:

SUB B17

1. An apparatus for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the apparatus comprising:

an input module to acquire text from a user;

a filtering module programmed to determine a micro-context relevant to the text;

the filtering module further programmed to locate information corresponding to the micro-context in a database; and

a presentation module to receive the information and present the information to a user.

A1

SUB B37

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the filtering module comprises a context construction module to combine words in the text to form the micro-context, the micro-context further being characteristic of the information.

A2

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filtering module further comprises a context comparison module to acquire a macro-context relevant to the micro-context.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the filtering module further comprises an information matching module to locate information corresponding to the macro-context in the database, the database being contextually indexed for searching by context.

A2
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the presentation module is programmed to selectively present the information in a format designated by a user.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a mining module to add new data to the database by selectively retrieving the new data from the source.

SUB B57

A3
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the mining module is located substantially remotely from the source.

SUB B77

12. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising an updating module to update the information periodically.

A4
13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the database further comprises a subset to store information for future access by a user.

14. An apparatus for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the apparatus comprising:

an input module to acquire text from a user;

a filtering module programmed to determine a micro-context relevant to the text;

the filtering module further programmed to locate information corresponding to the micro-context in a database, the filtering module comprising:

a context construction module to combine words in the text to form the micro-context characteristic of the information;

a context comparison module to determine a macro-context relevant to the micro-context; and

an information matching module to locate information corresponding to the macro-context in the database, the database being contextually indexed for searching by context;

and

a presentation module to receive the information and present the information to a user.

15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the presentation module is programmed to present the information in a format designated by a user.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a mining module to independently add new data to the database by selectively retrieving new data from the source.

17. A method for extracting information desired by a user from a source, the method comprising the steps of:

- receiving text from a user;
- determining a micro-context corresponding to the text;
- determining a macro-context corresponding to the micro-context;
- locating information corresponding to the macro-context in a database; and
- presenting the information to a user.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising combining relevant words in the text to form the micro-context characteristic of the information.

A4
19. The method of claim 18, wherein locating further comprises searching through indices in the database, wherein the indices have a format similar to the macro-context, and returning information linked to indices which correlate to the macro-contexts.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein presenting further comprises presenting the information in a format designated by a user.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising selectively retrieving data from the source over a network to add to the database.

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22. The method of claim 21, further comprising updating the information periodically.
